

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW VESPER RAT FROM NICARAGUA.

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The vesper rats of the genus *Nyctomys* are restricted in distribution to the Central American Subregion, the combined ranges of known forms extending from central Vera Cruz, Mexico, to western Panama. They are handsome, arboreal rodents, characterized externally by bright ochraceous-buffy or ochraceous-tawny upperparts and sharply contrasting white underparts. The tail is rather short and well furred; the feet are short and stout as in the allied genus *Rhipidomys*, and the compressed, recurved claws exhibit adaptation for climbing.

Owing doubtless to arboreal habits comparatively few examples of the genus are obtained by collectors. Specimens taken by Dr. C. W. Richmond in the humid Atlantic coast region of Nicaragua more than 20 years ago represent a new form, described below:

Nyctomys sumichrasti venustus subsp. nov.

Type from Greytown, Nicaragua. No. $\frac{331}{425} \frac{142}{133}$, ♀ adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), collected by C. W. Richmond, February 10, 1892. Original number 17.

General characters.—Color of upperparts decidedly darker than in *N. s. sumichrasti*, *N. s. salvini*, *N. s. decolorus*, or *N. s. nitellinus*; skull very broad.

Color.—Type: Upperparts near tawny of Ridgway (1912), finely and rather inconspicuously mixed with black, the general tone darkest on top of head and over back, becoming somewhat paler along flanks and outer sides of limbs; underparts white; ears, orbital borders, and small antorbital areas black; fore feet dull white; toes and plantar borders of hind feet whitish, the median metapodial areas blackish as usual in the genus; tail unicolor, brownish black.

Skull.—Similar in general to those of *N. s. sumichrasti* and the other

forms of the genus, but braincase and posterior part of frontal region broader than in any of them; rostrum rather slender.

Measurements.—Type: Total length, 256; tail vertebrae, 125; hind foot, 25.5. *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 31.7; zygomatic breadth, 28.4; interorbital breadth, 6.6; greatest width between temporal ridges, 14.6; length of nasals, 10.6; length of anterior palatine foramina, 5.2; length of palatal bridge, 5.2; alveolar length of upper molar series, 4.6.

Specimens examined.—Total number 3, as follows:

Costa Rica: Pacuare, 1.

Nicaragua: Escondido River (45 miles from Bluefields), 1; Greytown (type locality), 1.

Remarks.—The members of the genus *Nyctomys* are slightly differentiated and clearly assignable to a single species recognizable sub-specifically as follows:

Nyctomys sumichrasti sumichrasti (Saussure), eastern slope of mountains in State of Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Nyctomys sumichrasti salvini Tomes, Dueñas, Guatemala.

Nyctomys sumichrasti decolorus (True), Rio de las Piedras, Honduras.

Nyctomys sumichrasti nitellinus Bangs, Boquete, Panama.

Nyctomys sumichrasti venustulus Goldman, Greytown, Nicaragua.